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Российский Азиатский Музей
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1839

RUSSIAN PEASANT ART

ILLUSTRATING THE SPECIMENS COLLECTED

BY

COUNT A. A. BOBRINSKY

SIXTY PLATES

(THREE IN COLOR)

WITH EXPLANATORY TEXT

H. C. PERLEBERG

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fol.

This book is respectfully dedicated to the thousands of forever anonymous Russians who created the objects of art herein represented; as well as to Count A. A. Bobrinsky who brought their work from the obscurity of a village or local museum into the great world.

H. C. PERLEBERG

New York, N. Y., March 1st, 1922

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INTRODUCTION

A few words as to how this book stands in relation to art in general, and art in Russia in particular, may not be misplaced.

Wood carving began in Russia at the same time as in the rest of Europe. The Goths who, in the fifth to eighth centuries, developed the so-called "Gothic" style of the Merovingians, had crossed Russia in order to reach Europe; and had, presumably, left traces of this art in Russia. While in the rest of Europe art could, and did, express itself in architecture, painting, sculpture, and the like, as well as in wood carving, conditions in Russia left wood carving the most practicable method for the artistic tendencies of the Russians to manifest themselves in. The peculiar conditions in Russia may, of course, be chiefly ascribed to the domination of the nomad Tatars, the Asiatic tendencies of such civilization as there was, and the break with Rome, since this latter involved the loss of its leadership and artistic traditions.

It is thus evident that the genius of the Russian people expressed itself—if we except the development of its language—principally by means of wood carving.

The art was carefully transmitted from father to son in countless peasant huts, and under these circumstances developed strict traditions to which it adhered throughout. The first real break occurred when Peter the Great brought Europe into Russia; and in the churches and the manors of the aristocracy showed new ideas—i. e. those of the Renaissance—to the Russian peasantry. Even then, wood carving changed only in more or less isolated instances. In more recent times, organized industry has put an end to wood carving wherever it appeared; and replaced it with articles which although they are cheaper and naturally enough more durable, are shoddy, and worthless from an artistic point of view.

The districts lying East, North and Northeast from Moscow are today the most untouched by industrialism, as well as the most typically Russian. Count A. A. Bobrinsky, during the course of several years, collected his specimens from this section of the country. He had recourse to various collections, both public and private; and went to hundreds of villages for more unique and representative material. His careful and exhaustive researches produced a work which is a standard on the subject; but which is now out of print and practically unobtainable. The Russian revolution has recently put an end to the development of wood carving in the old traditions, and incidentally made Bobrinsky's book an epitome of the entire period. Under these conditions, we have felt justified in producing a new edition of the work, omitting some of the more redundant plates for conciseness.

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Museum, of Moscow

eter Ivan Schtschukin, at Moscow

e Stroganow School

Al. III.—Museum of Alexander III., at Petrograd

Art. Soc.—Museum of Society for the Promotion of Art

Ac. Sc.—Museum of Petrograd Academy of Science

Te. Sm.—Countess Tenischew Museum, at Smolensk
Jar.—The Antique Collection of the Archiv Commission
of Jaroslaw.

W. Pal.—Museum of the White Palata, of Rostow

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7 Mus. Czarewitch Demetrius; 11 Coll.
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Archangelsk and Olonetz



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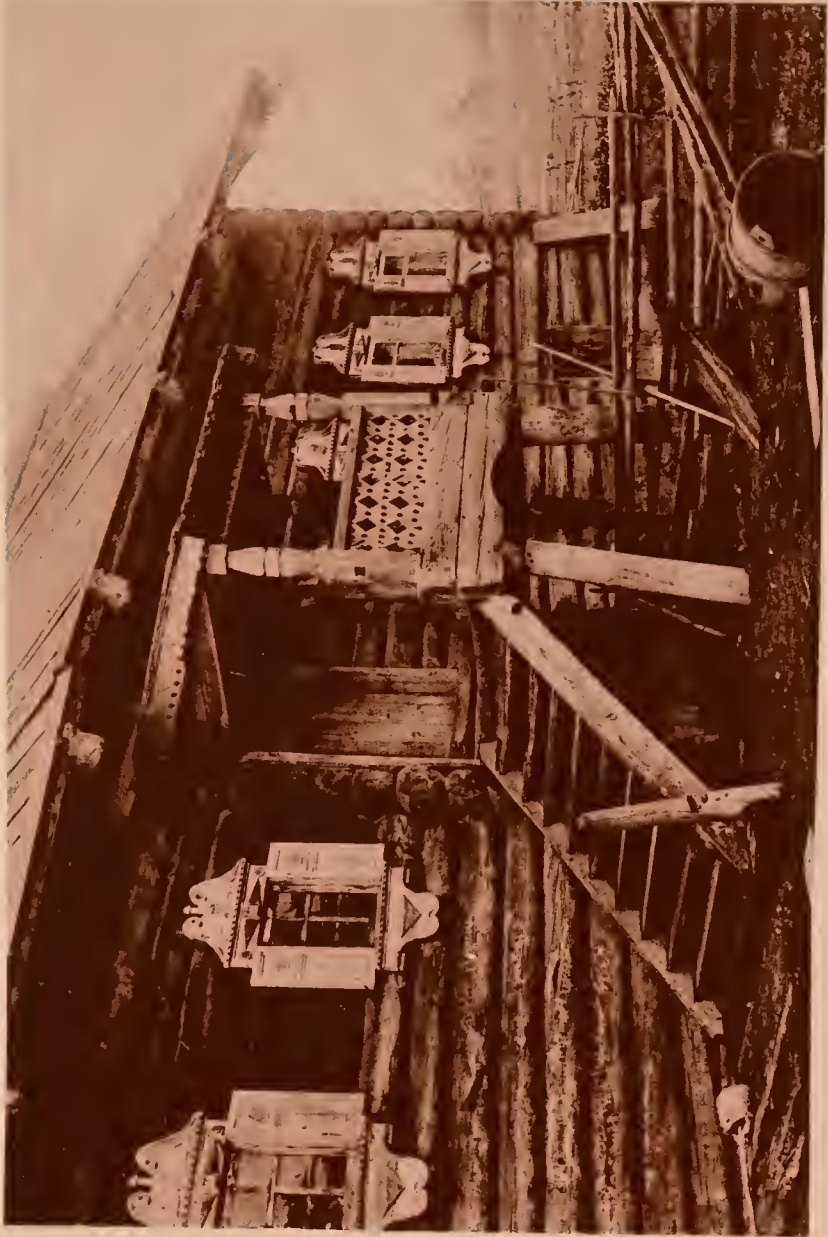


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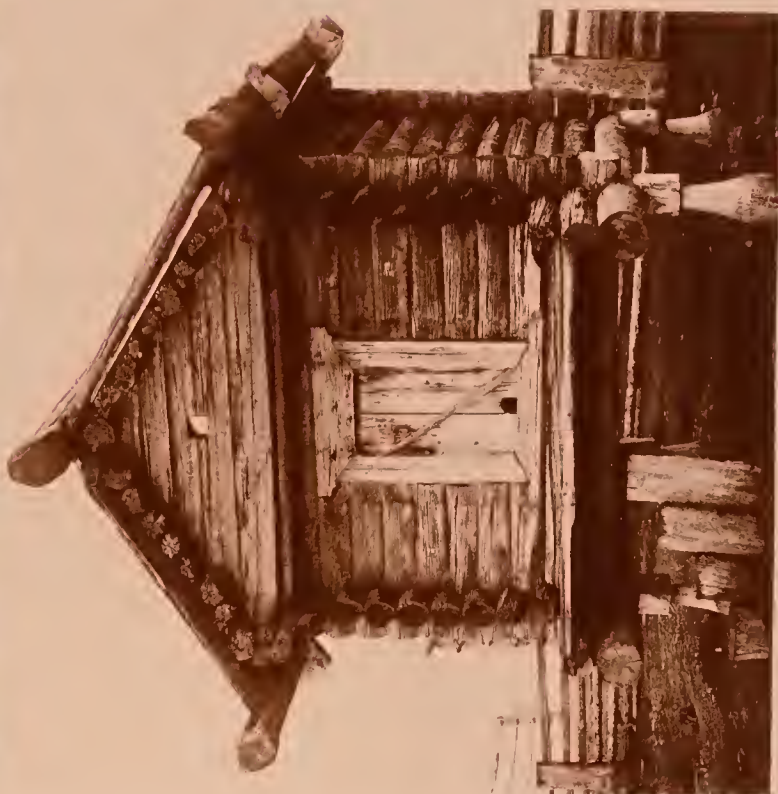
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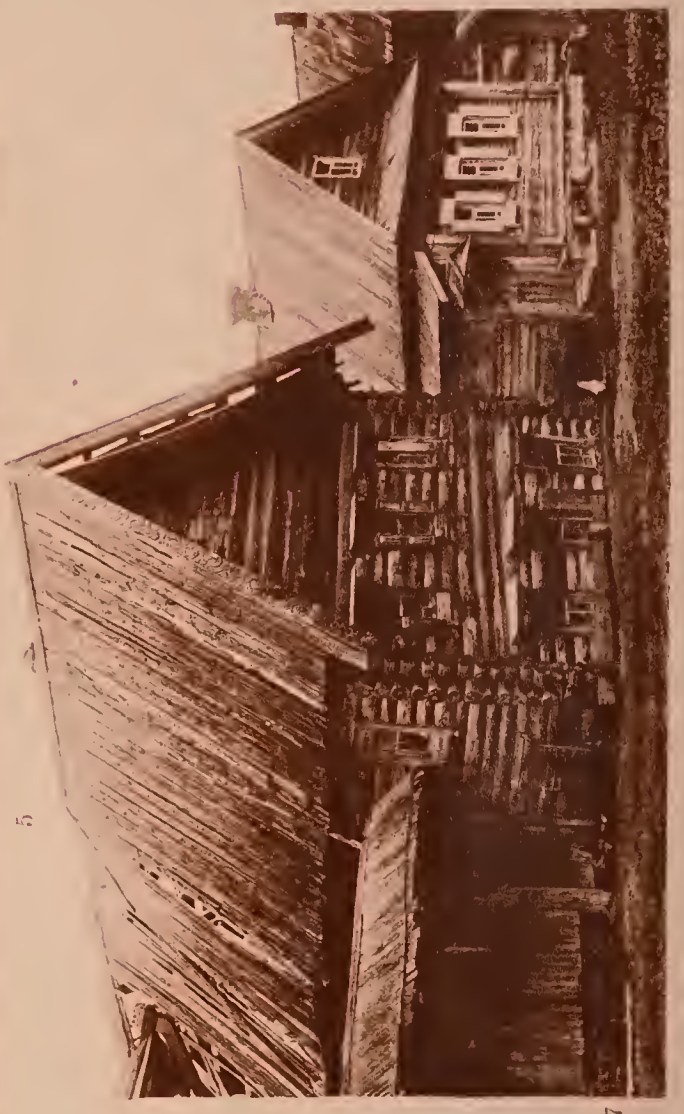
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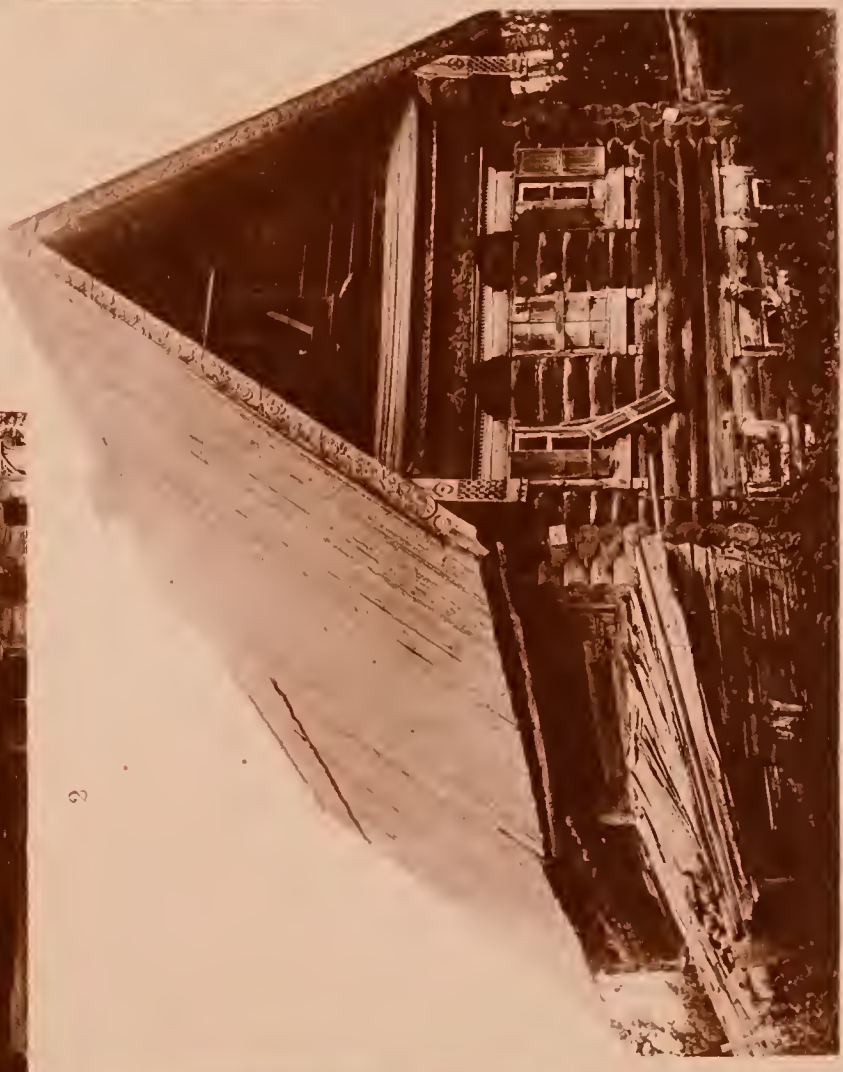
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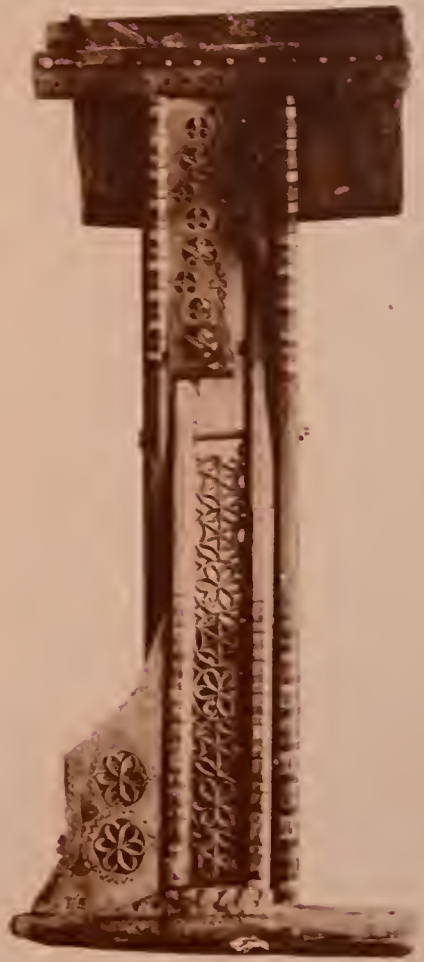
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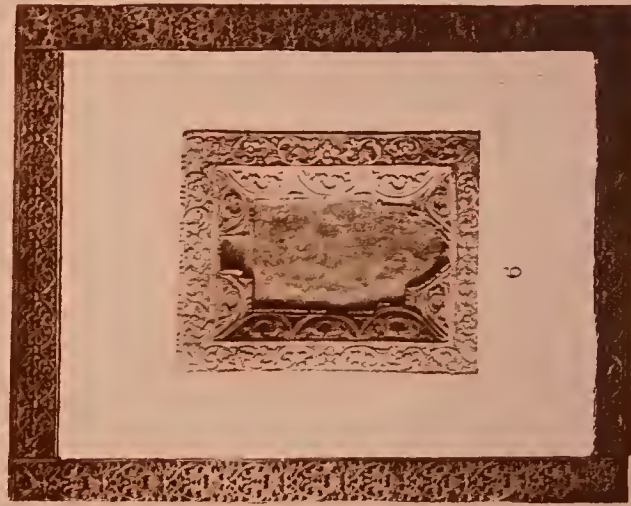
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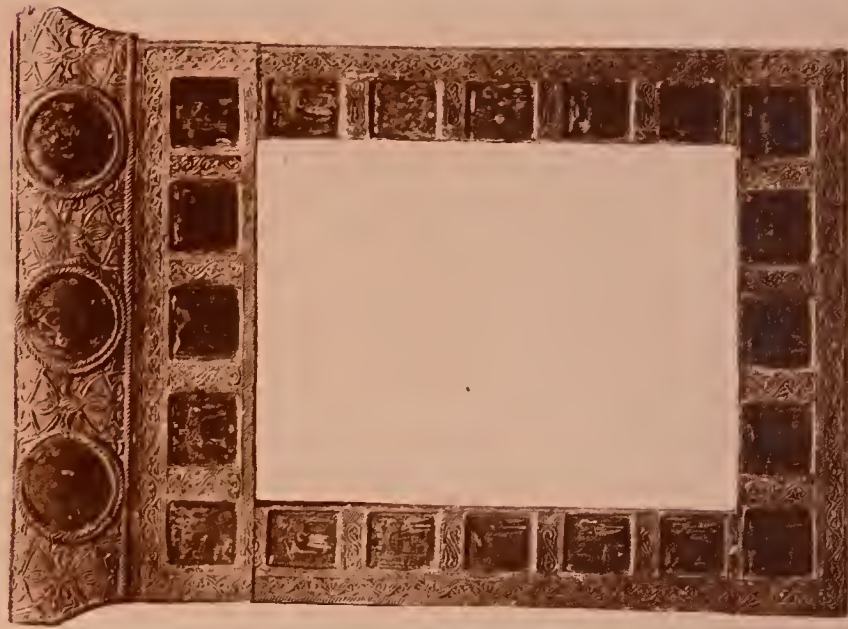
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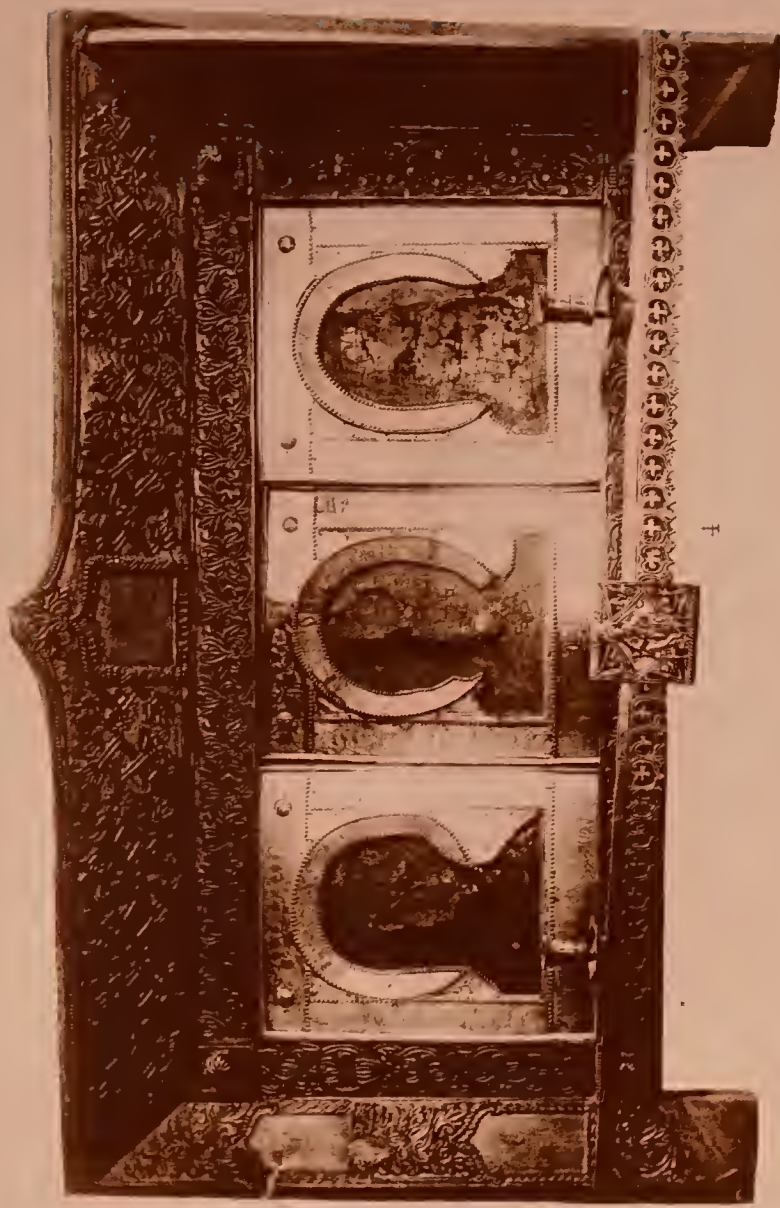
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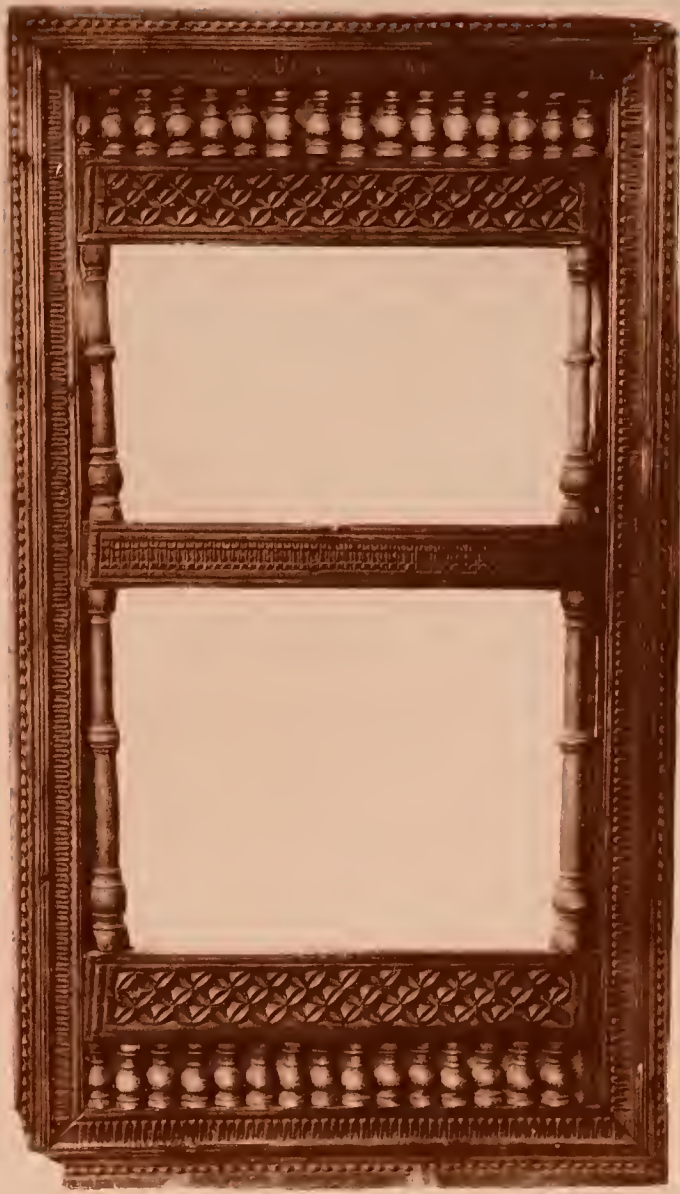
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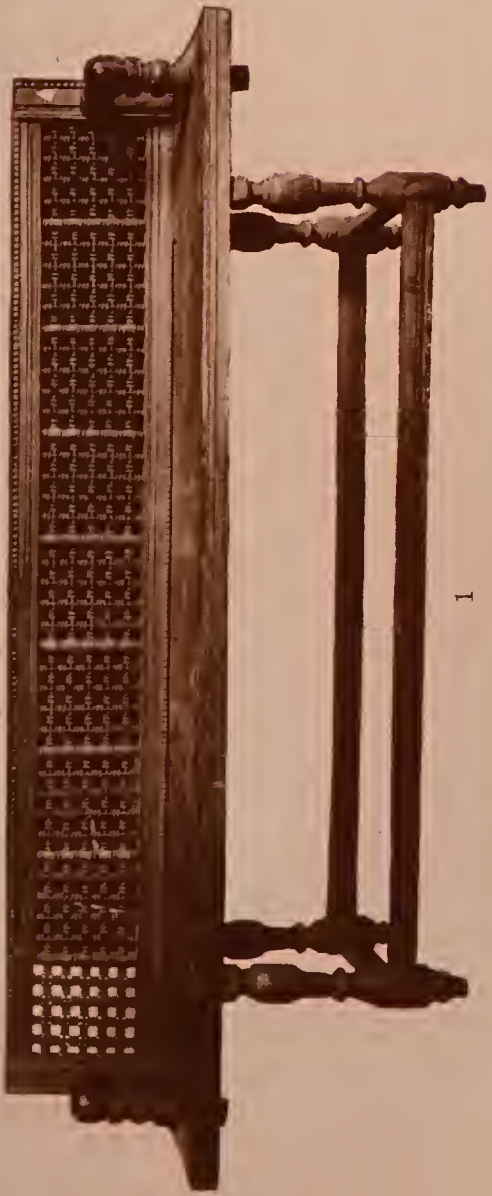


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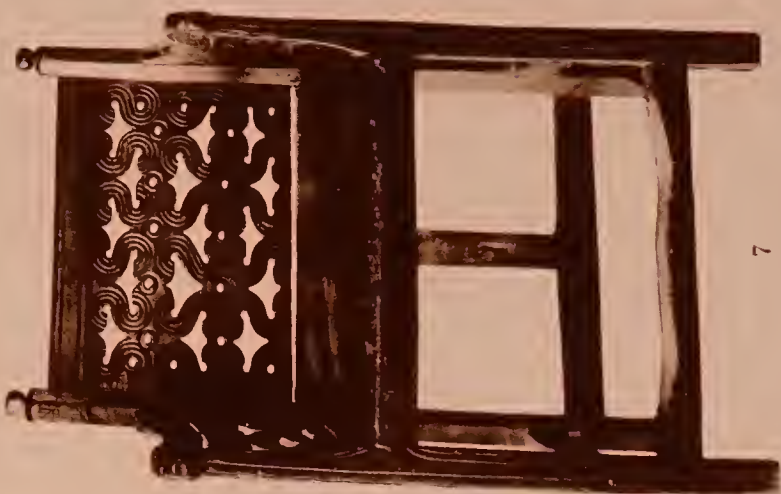
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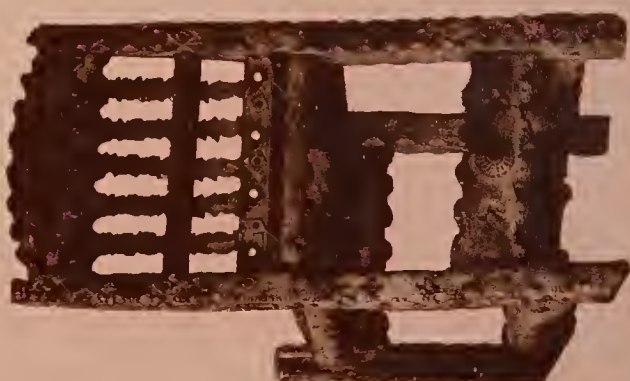
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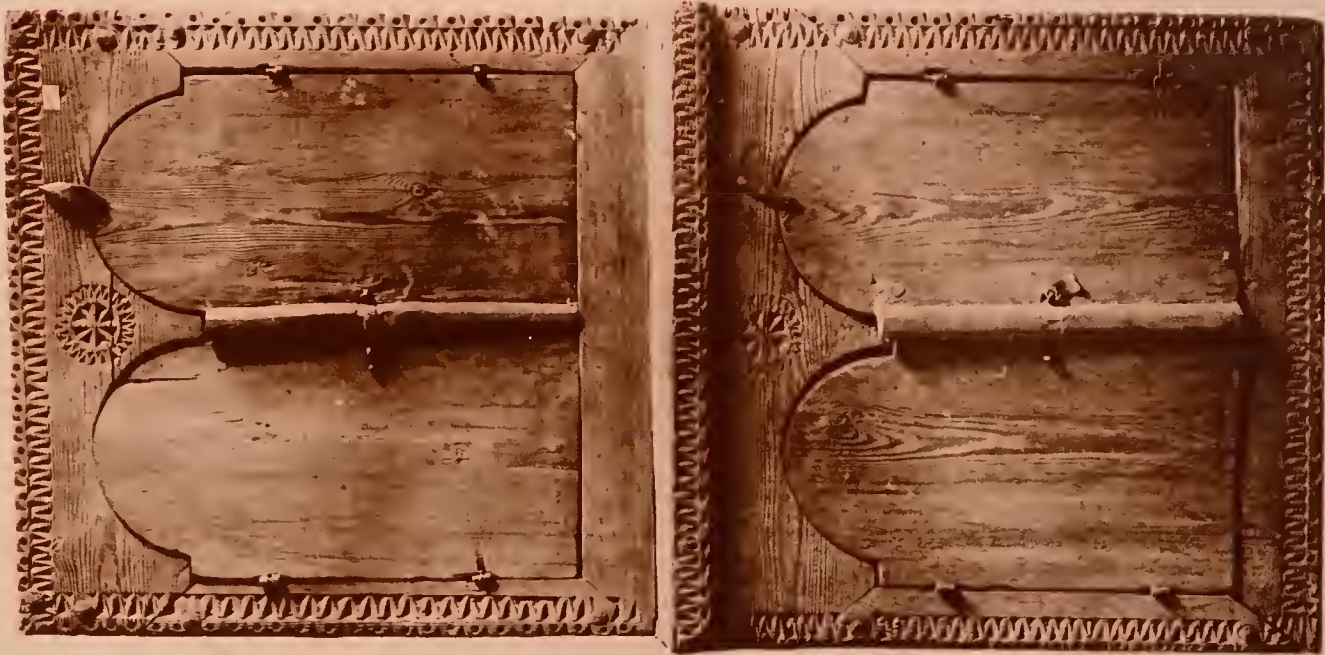
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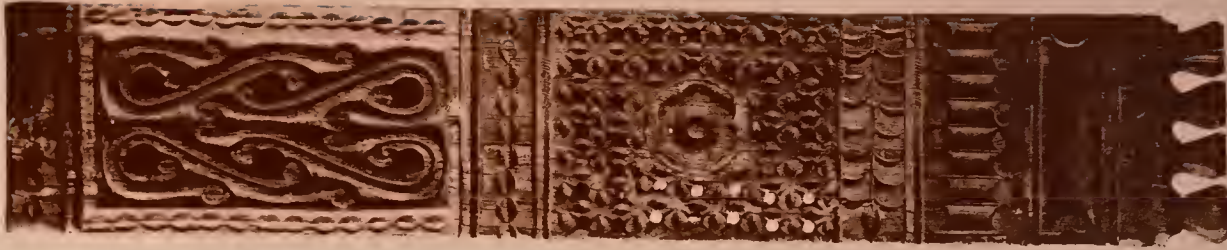
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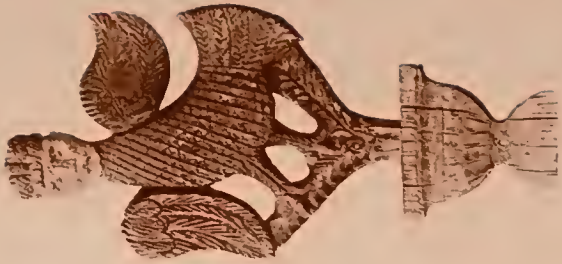
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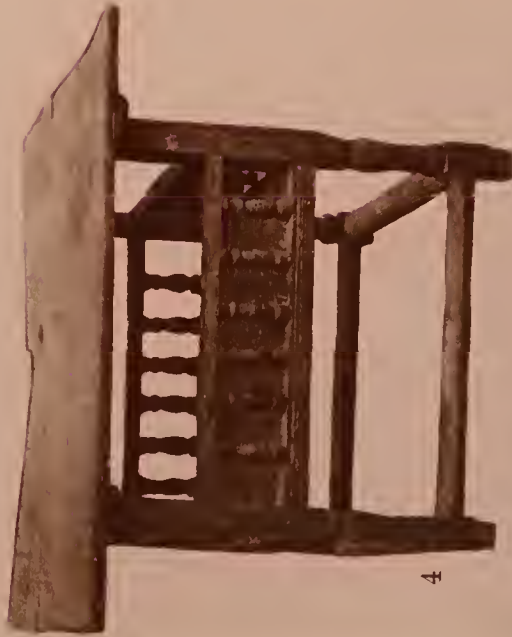
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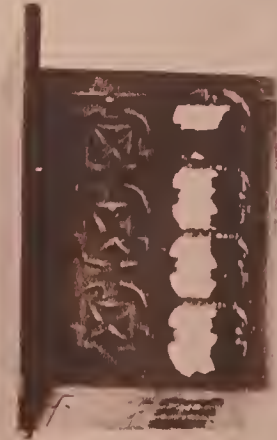
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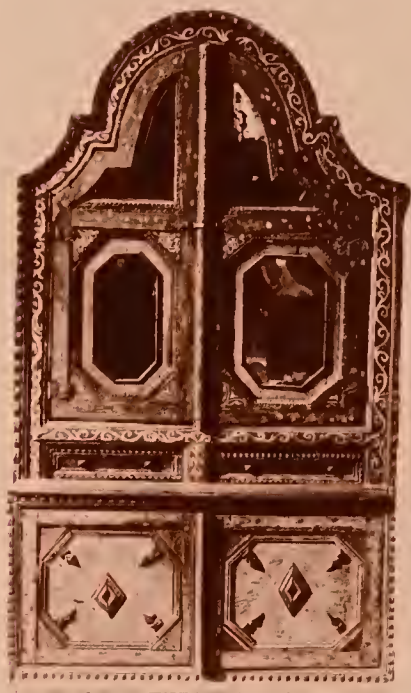
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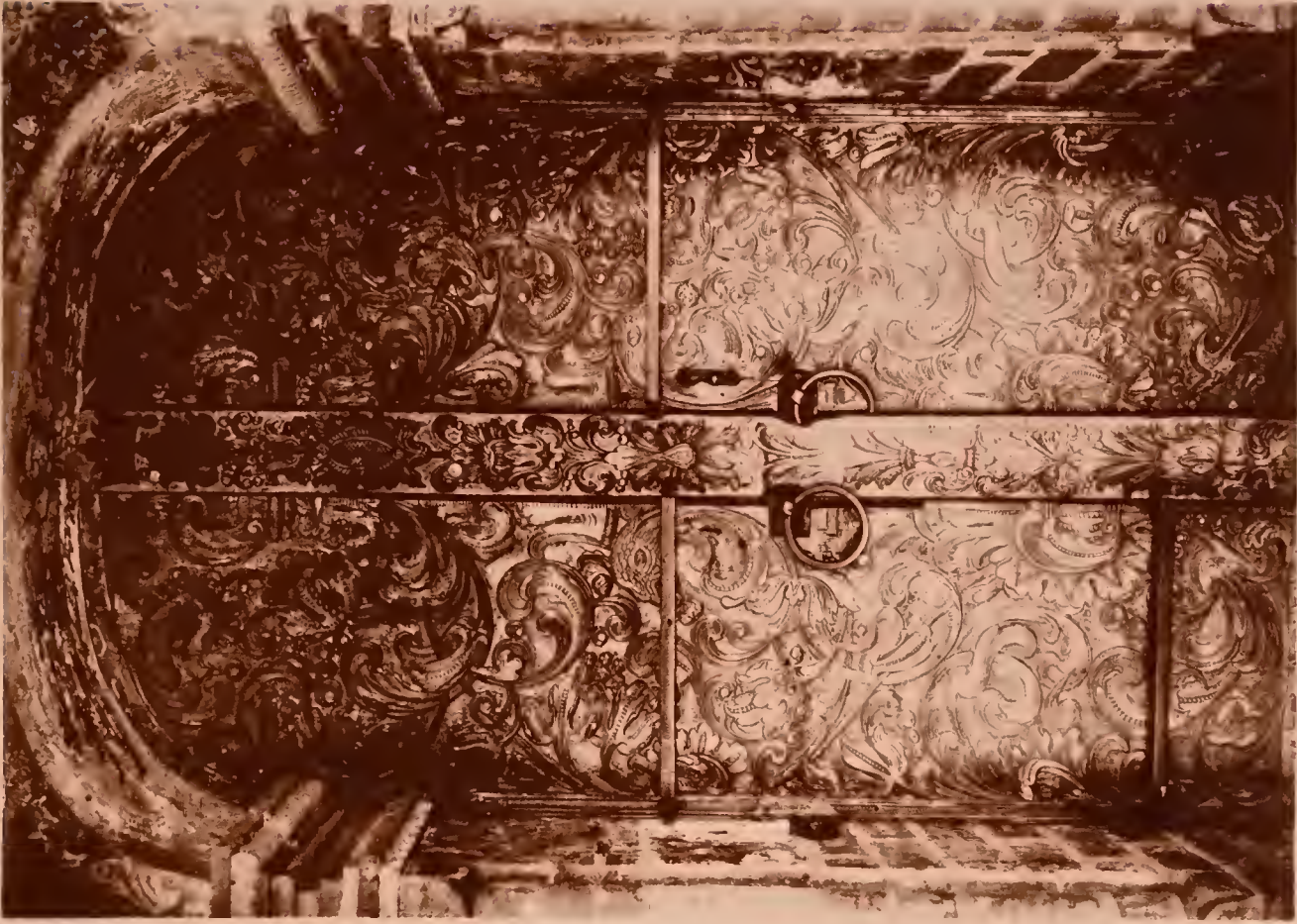
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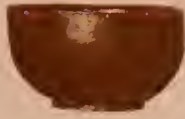
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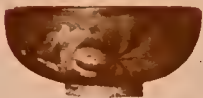
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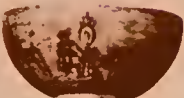
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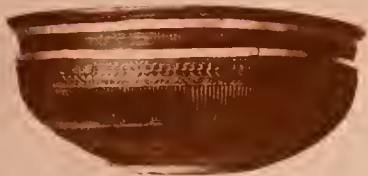
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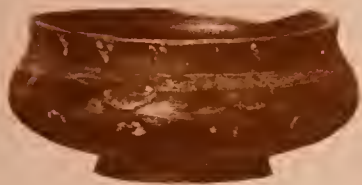
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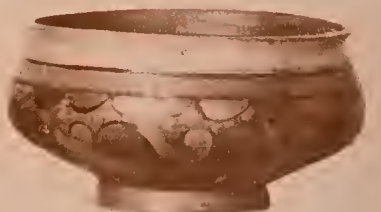
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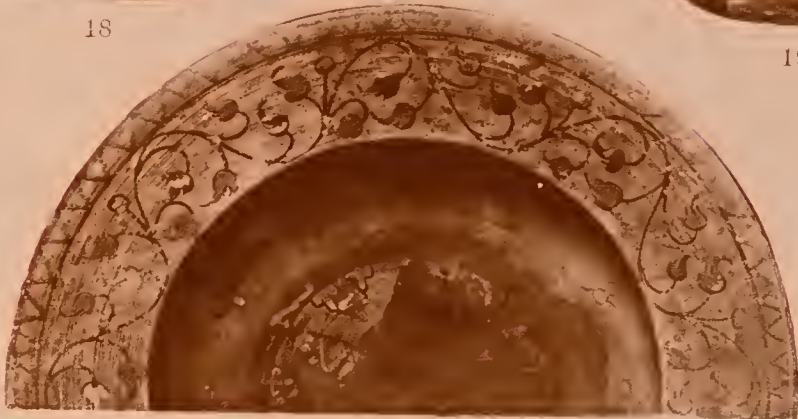
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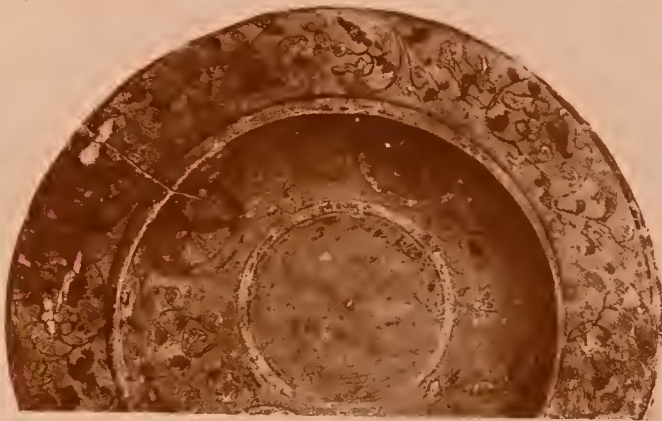
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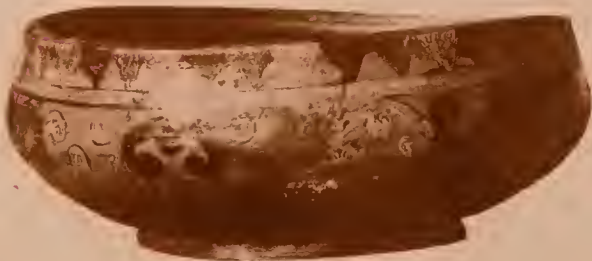
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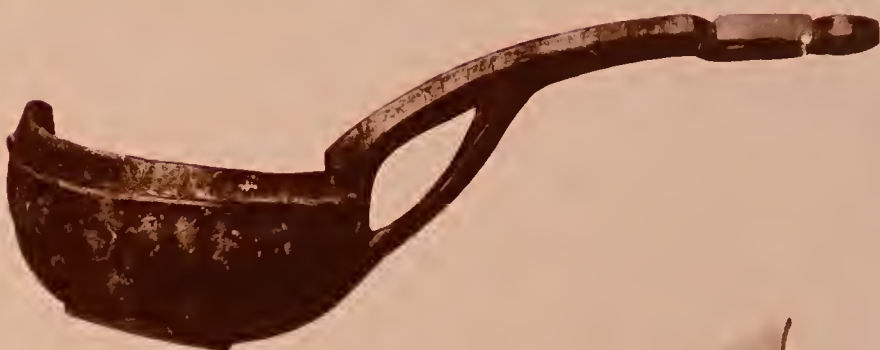
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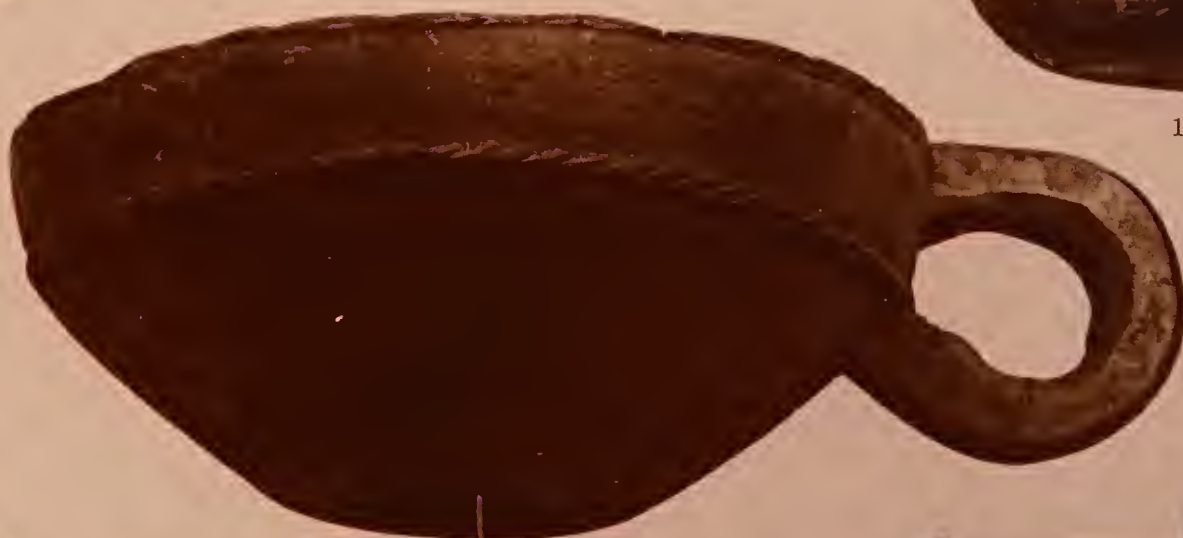
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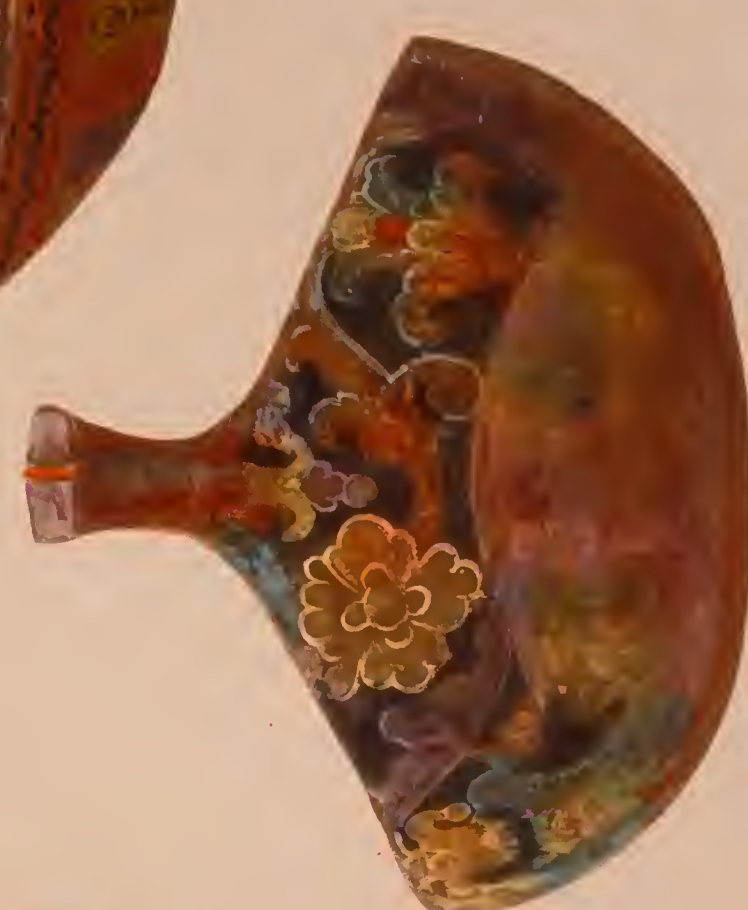
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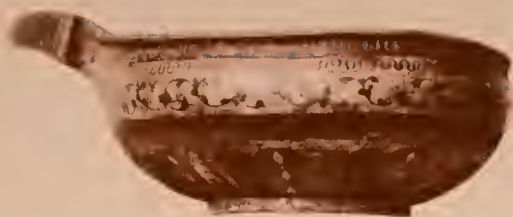
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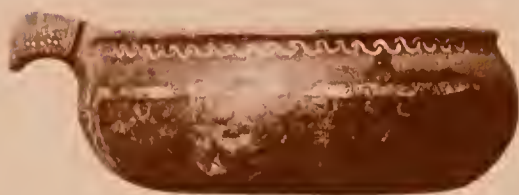
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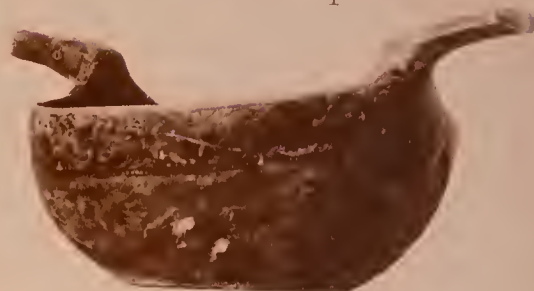
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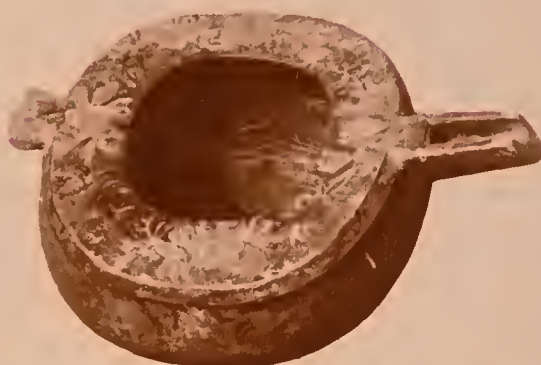
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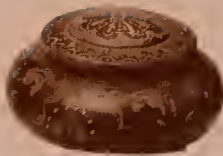
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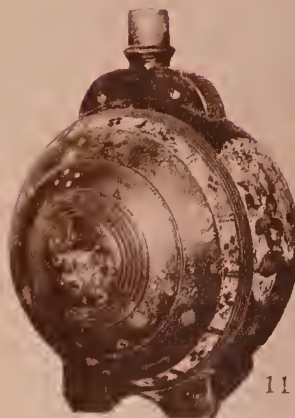
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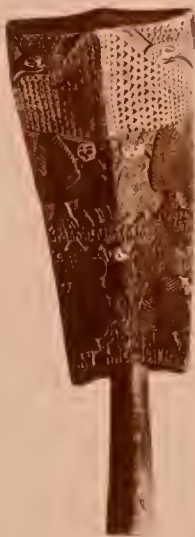
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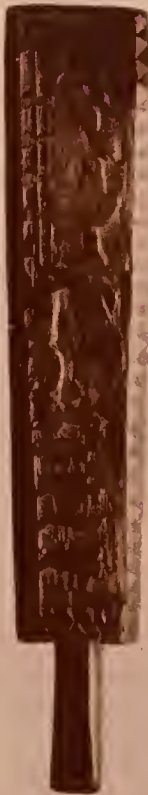
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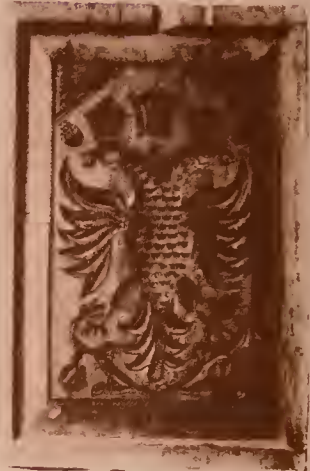
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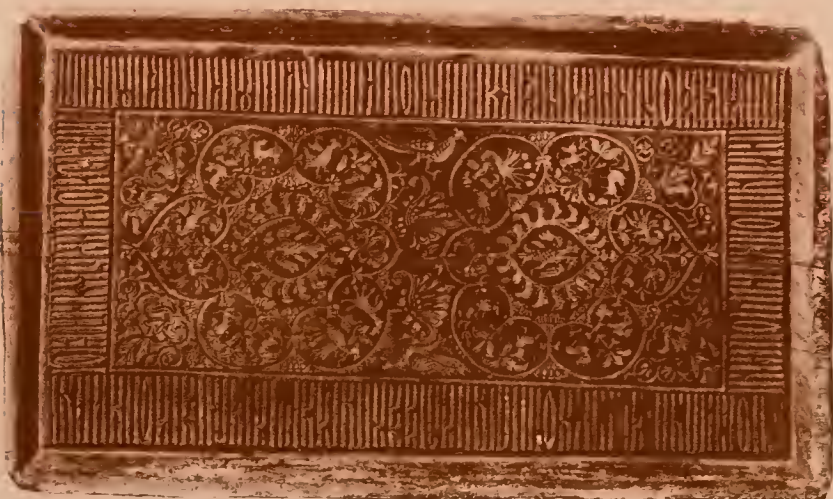
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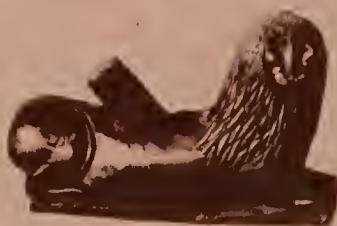
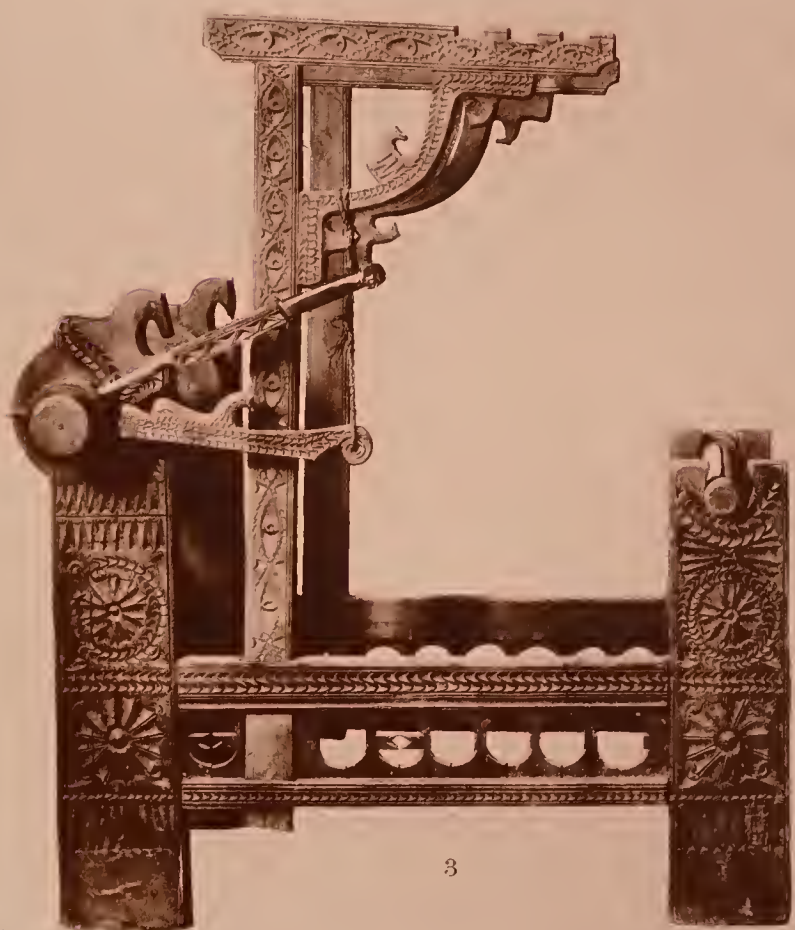
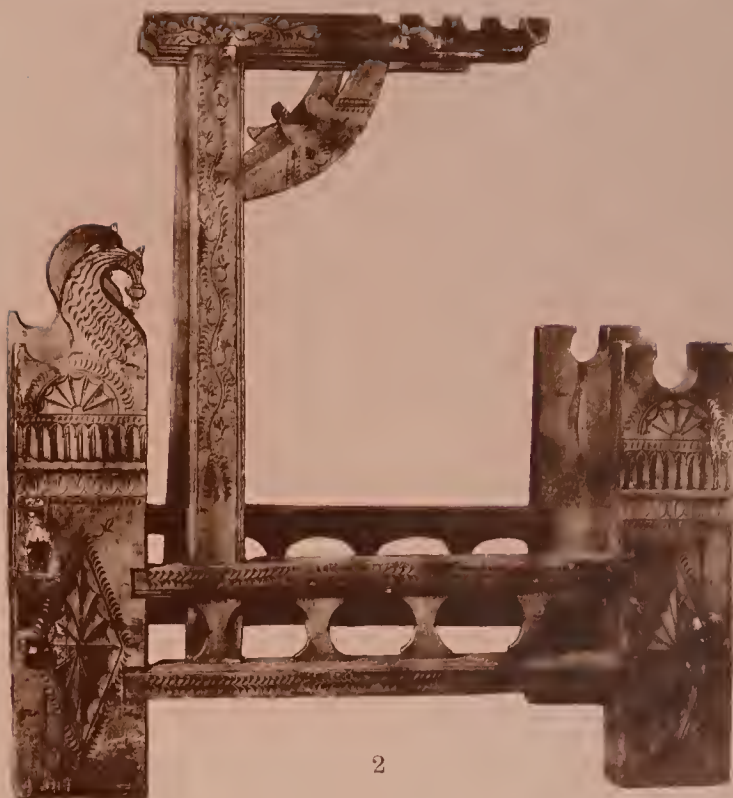
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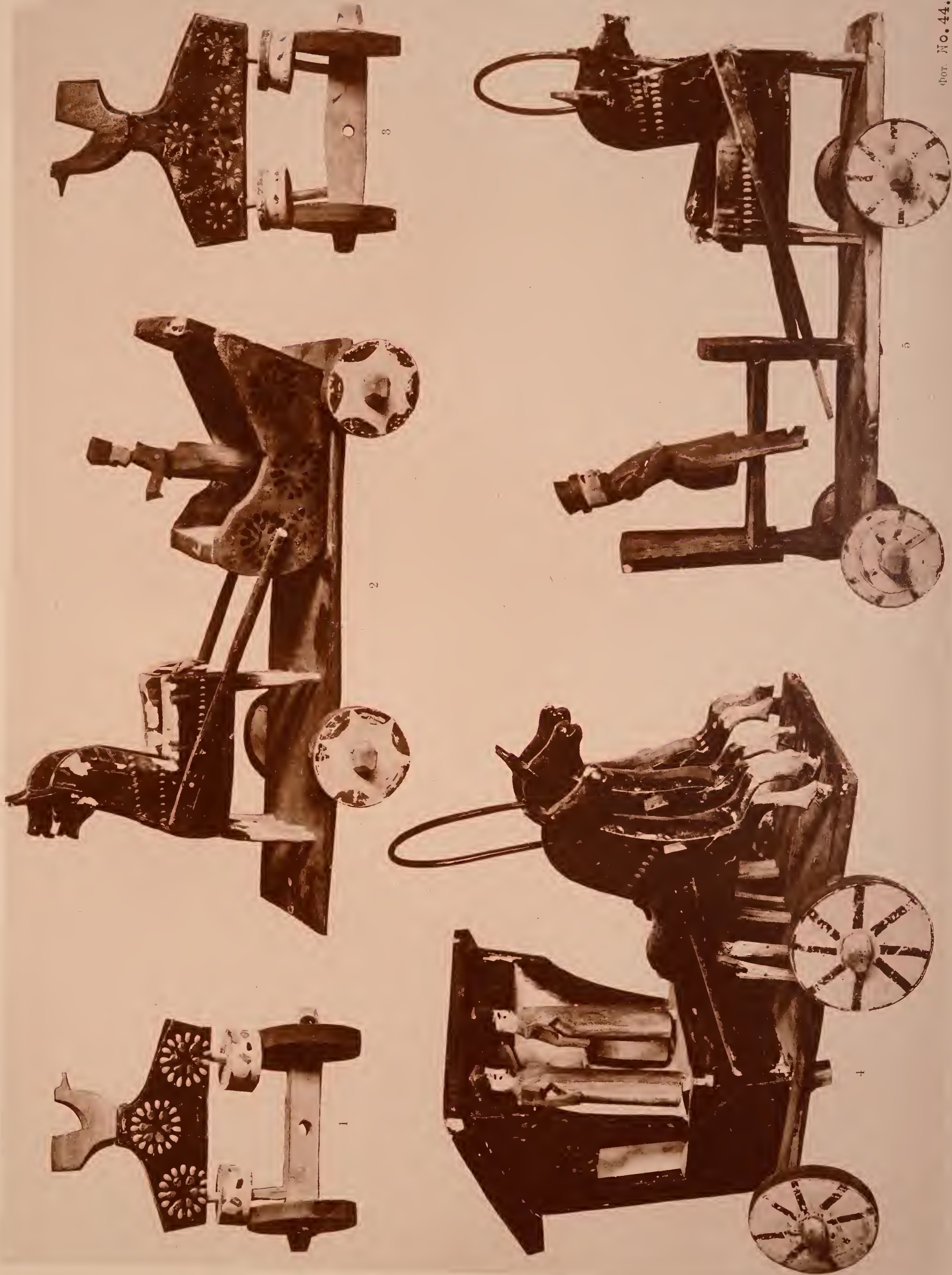
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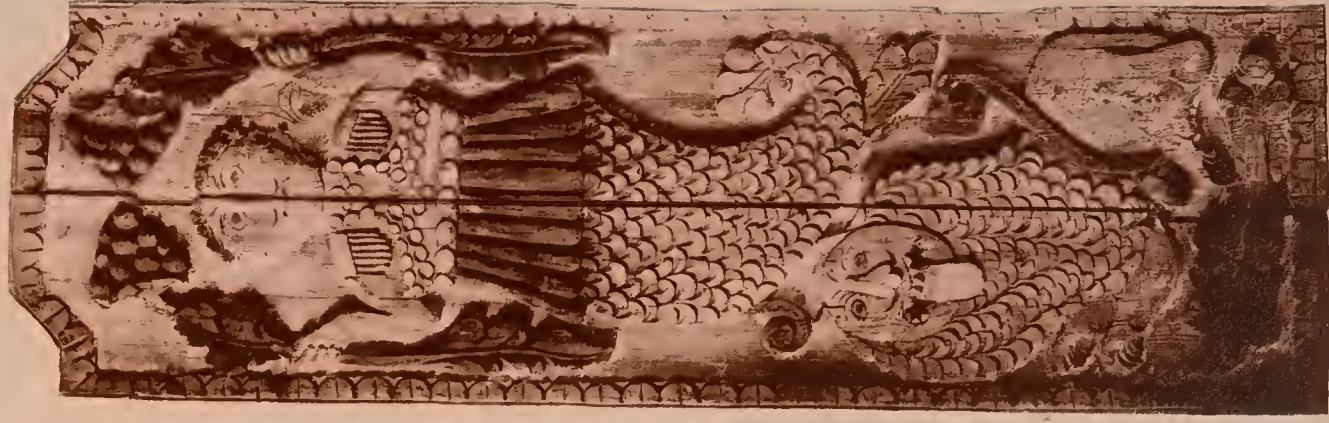
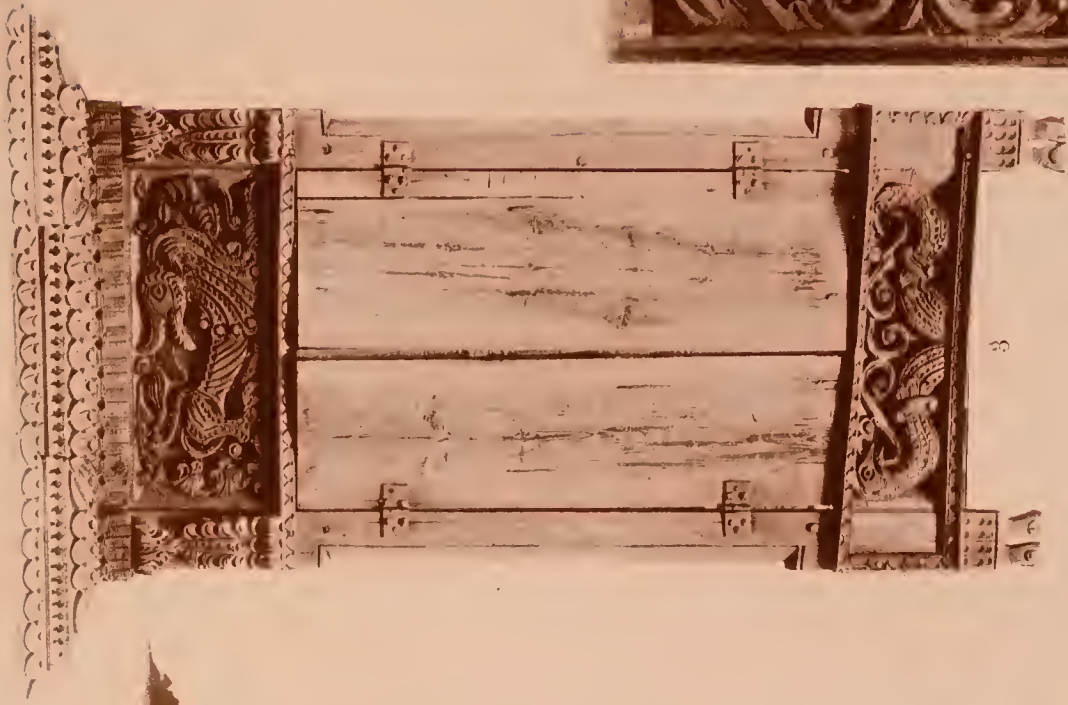
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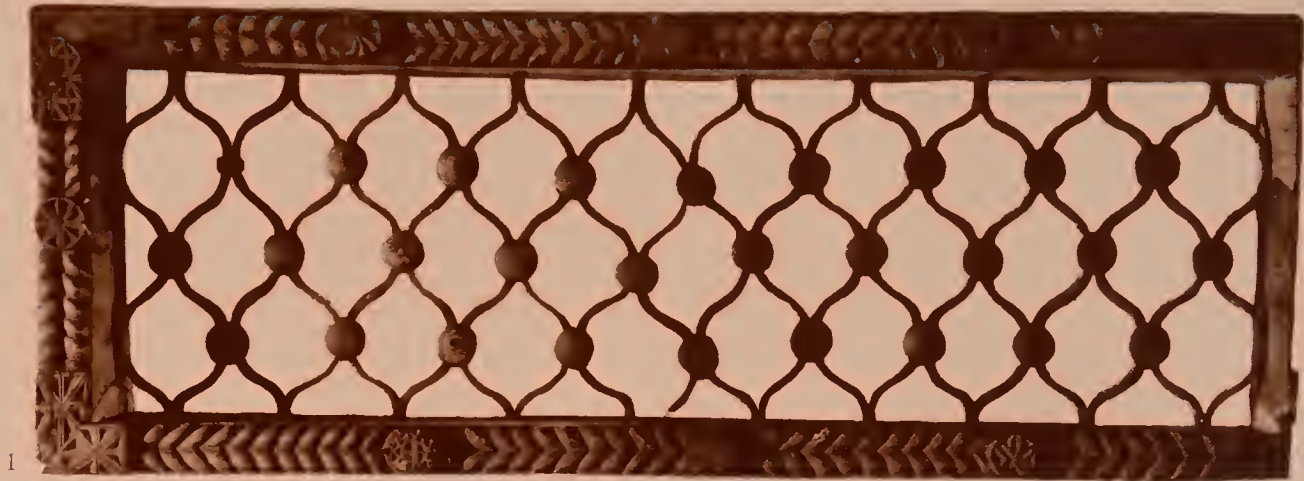
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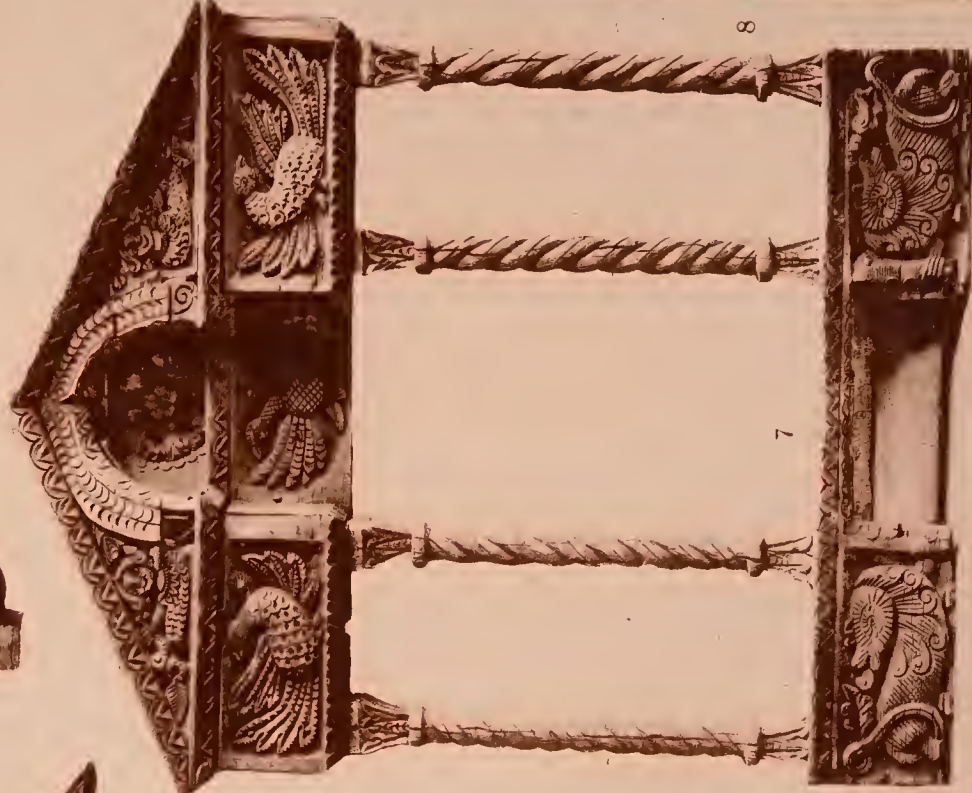
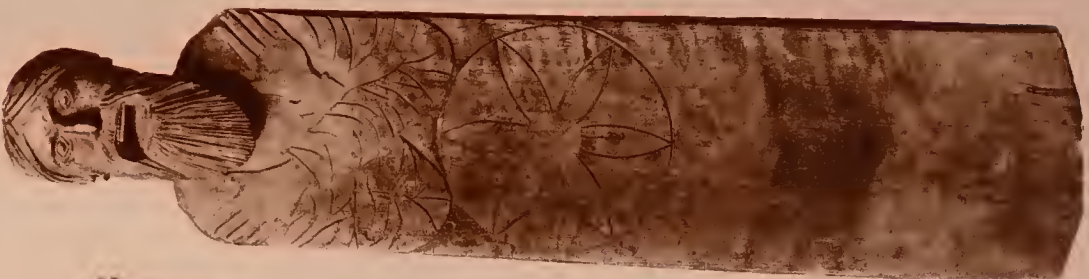


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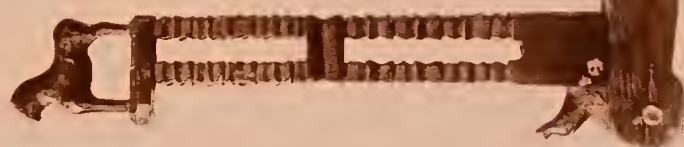
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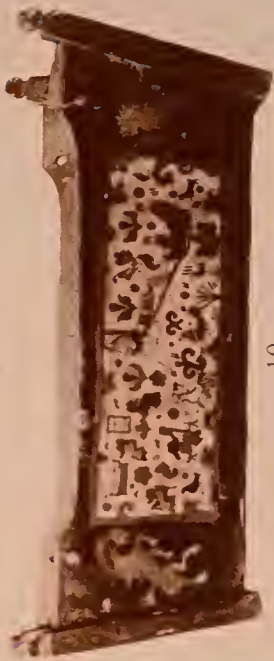
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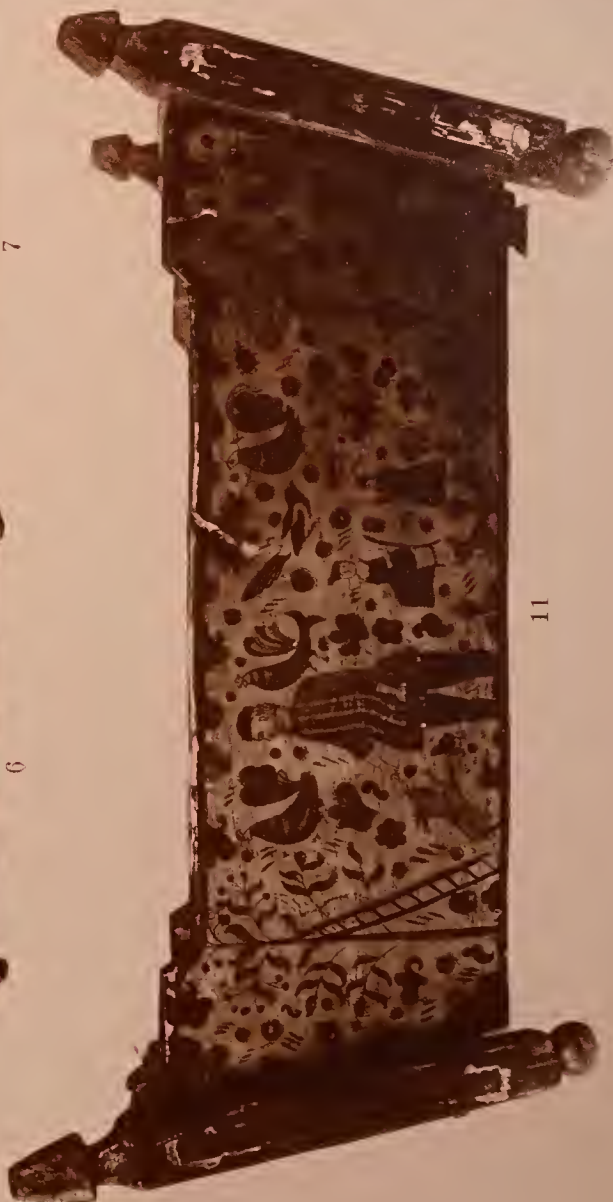
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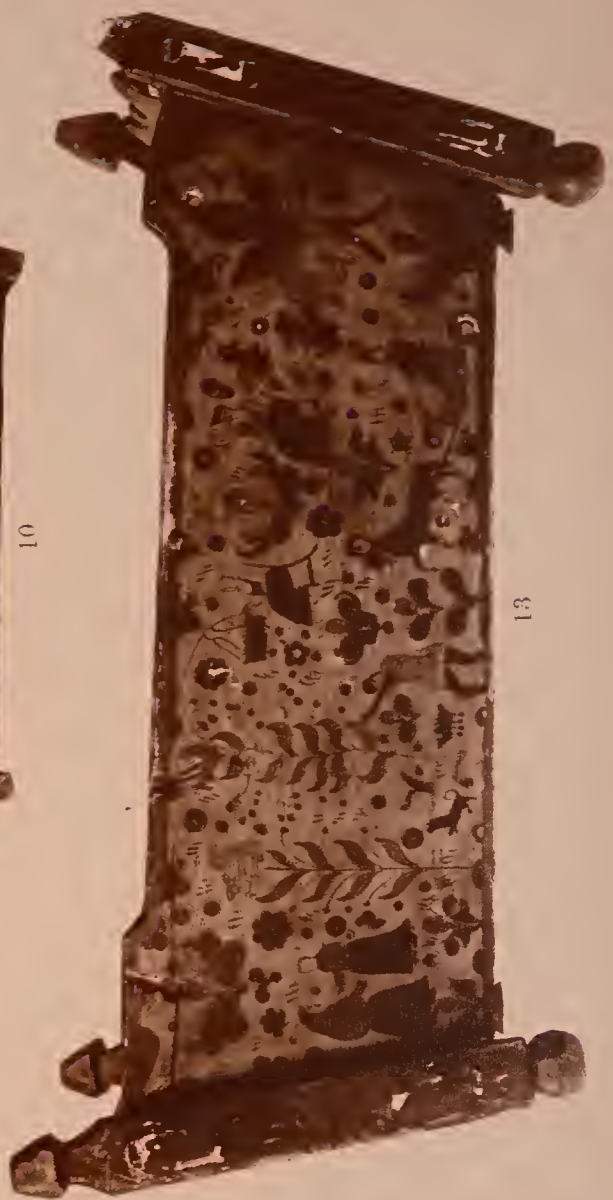
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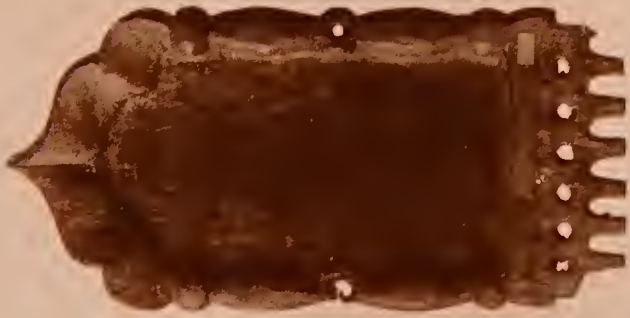
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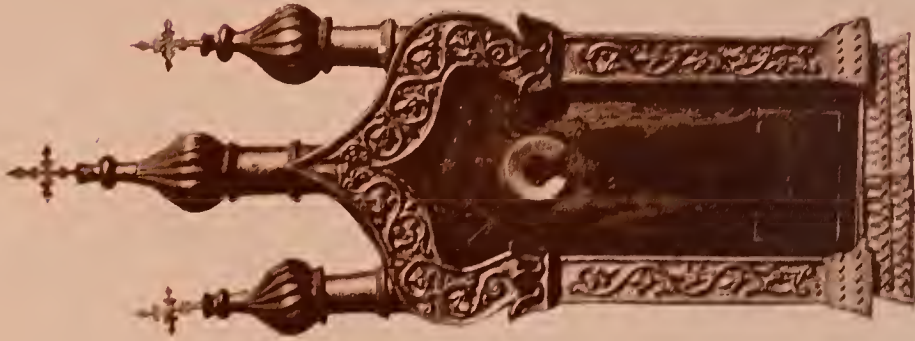
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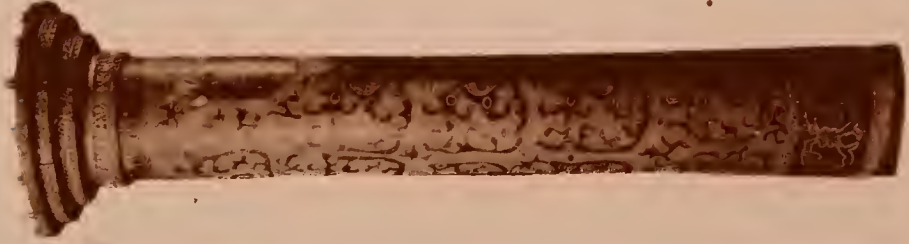
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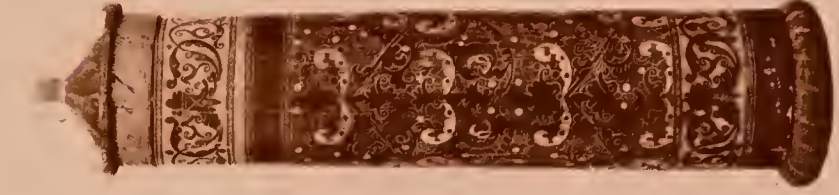
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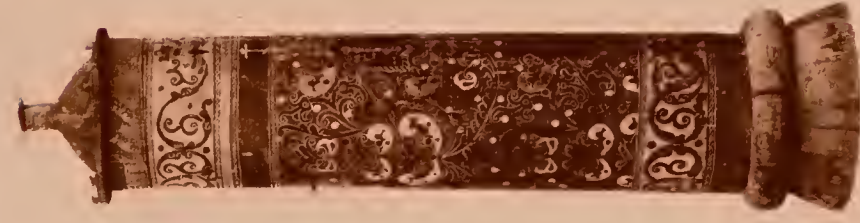
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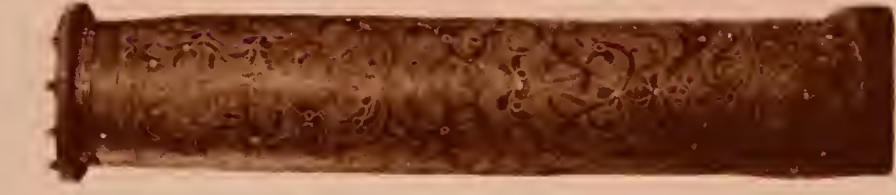
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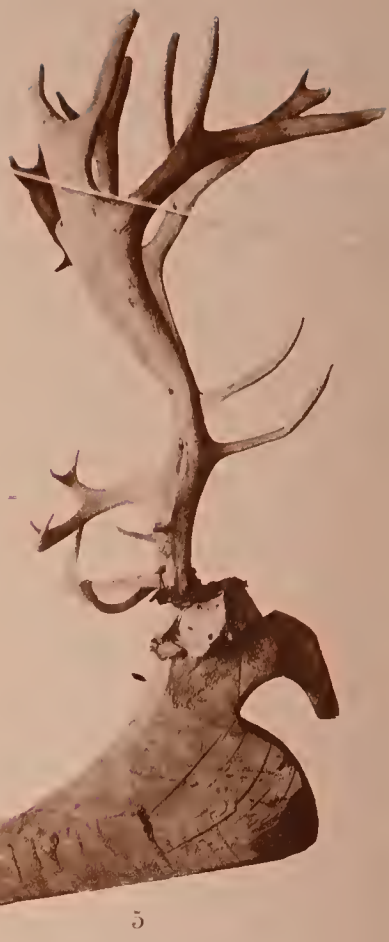
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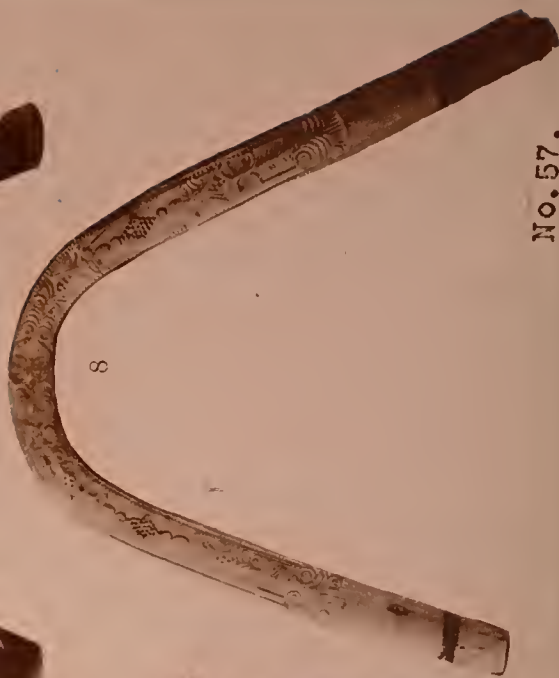
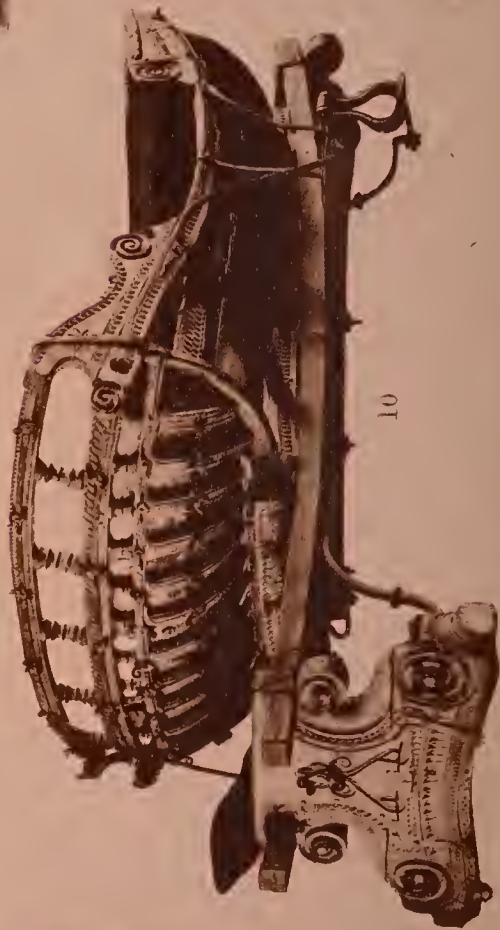
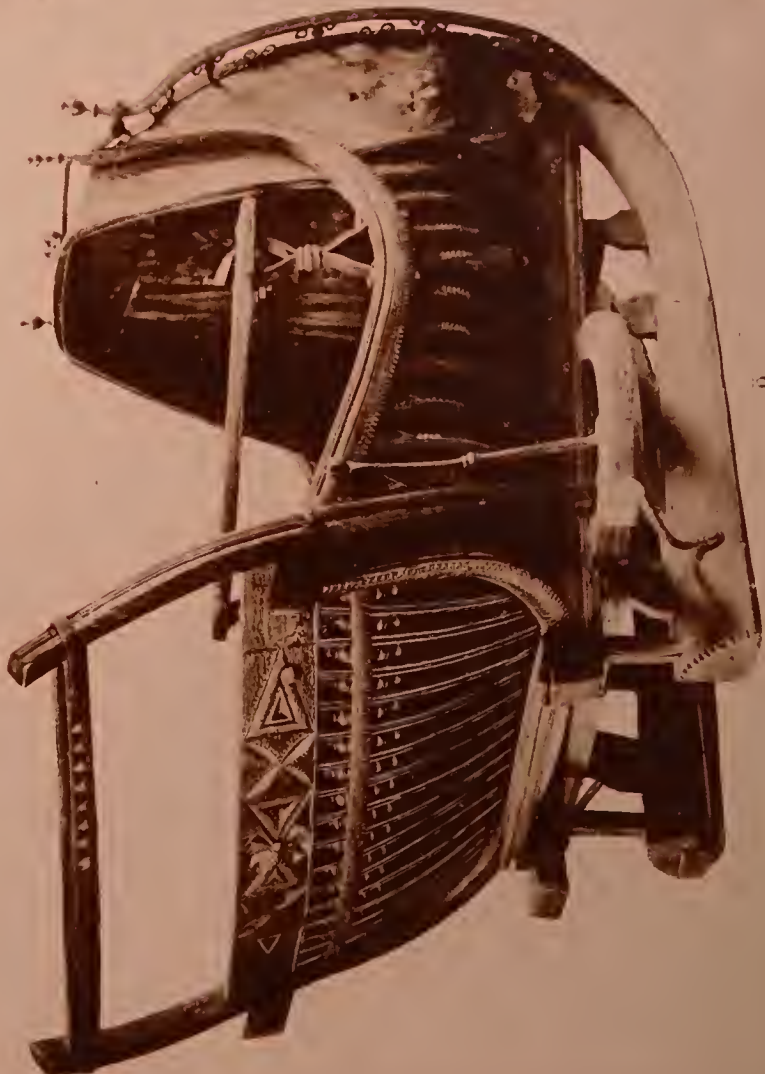


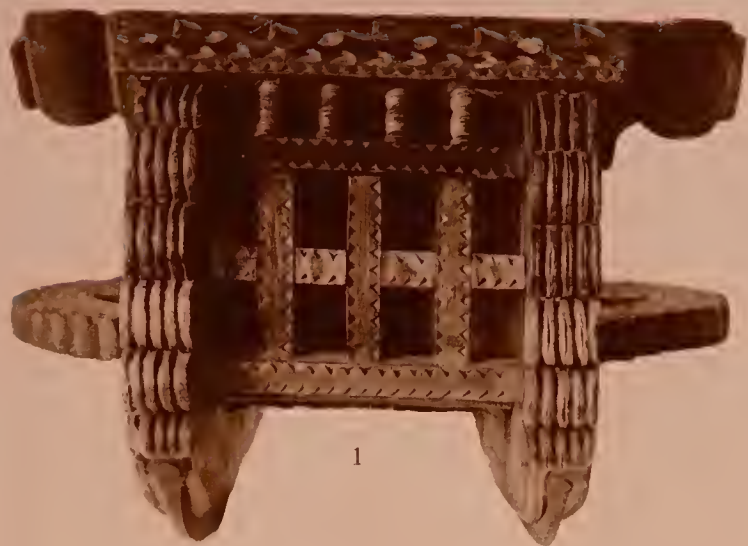
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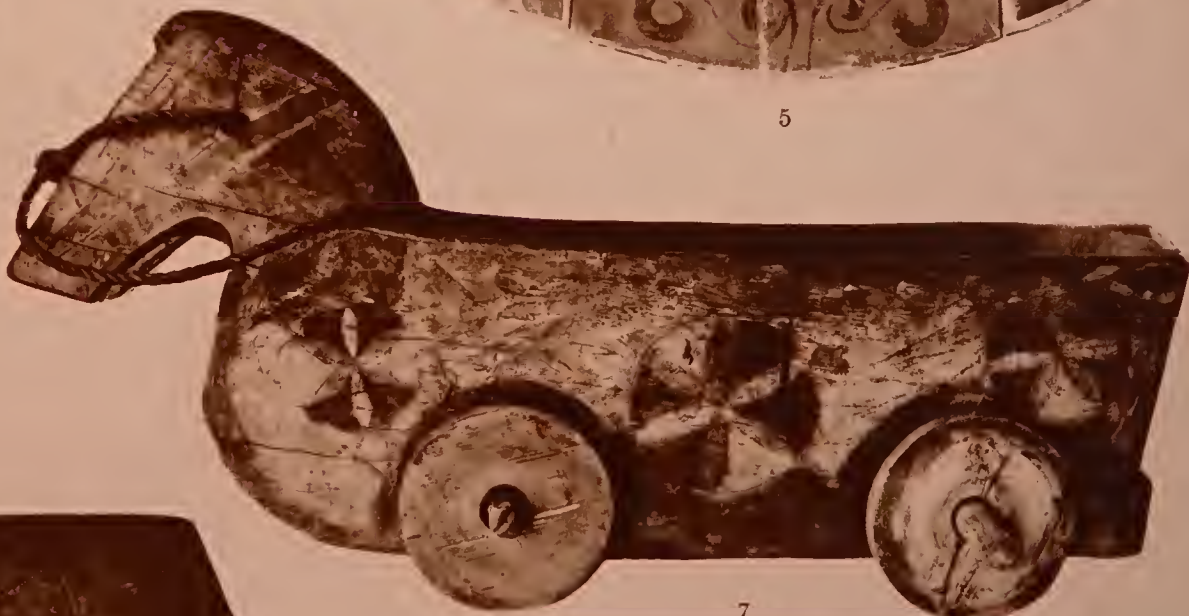
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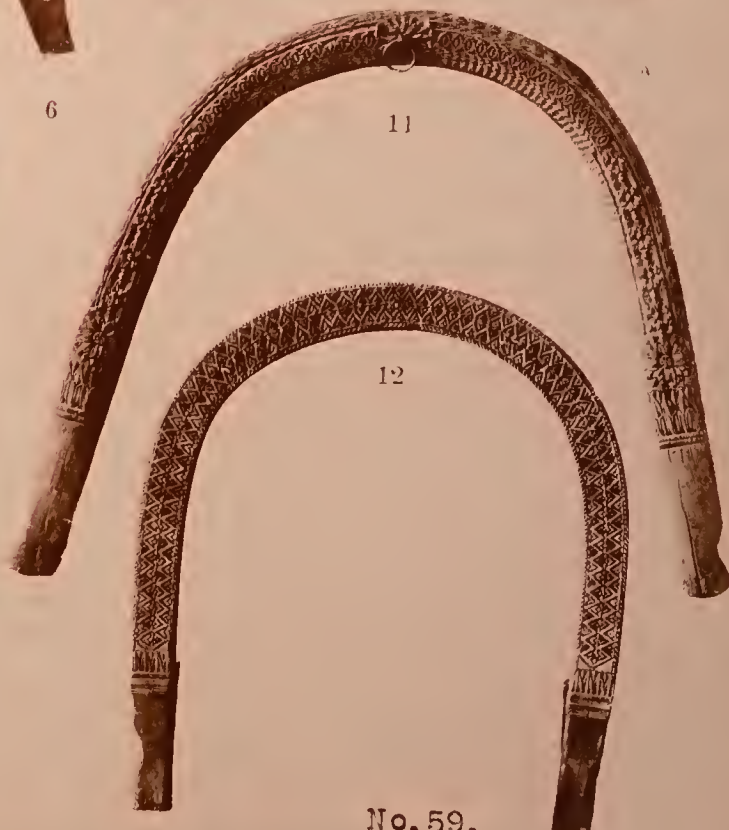
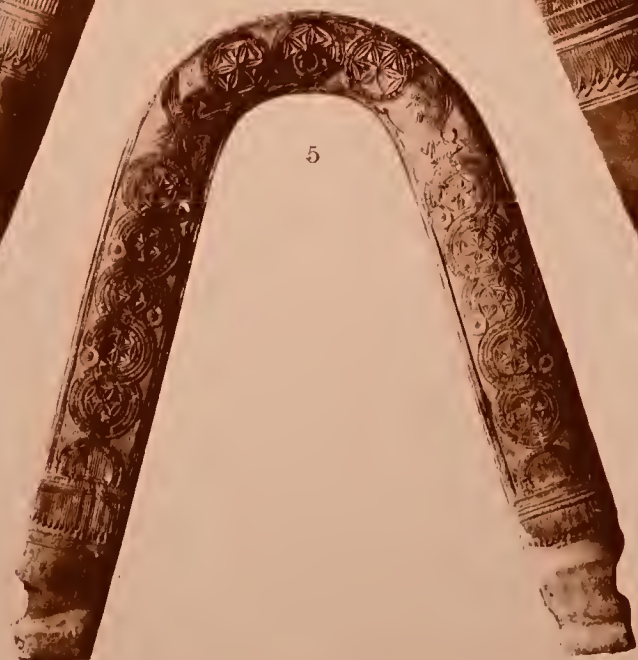
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